

REMARKS

Claims 7, 19 and 21-26 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 17 and 20 have been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and other applications. Claims 1-6, 8-18 and 20 are pending in this application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 10-16.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ansell et al. (US 6,692,166). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ansell et al. in view of Gregoire (US 6,048,048). Claims 7-9, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 7. As indicated by the Office Action, claim 1 as amended should be allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 are dependent upon claim 1 and therefore allowable along with claim 1 and on their own merits.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 19. As indicated by the Office Action, claim 17 as amended should be allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 18 is dependent upon claim 17 and therefore allowable along with claim 17 and on its own merits.

Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated by the Office Action, claim 20 as amended should be allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this case are in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Lemm', is written over a horizontal line.

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